

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 NSCE-00
SIG-01 MMO-01 PM-05 INR-10 INRE-00 CIAE-00 USIE-00
NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PA-01 A-01 H-01 HA-05 AID-05
IGA-02 ACDA-12 PC-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01
OPIC-03 AGRE-00 CU-04 /092 W
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O 151655Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 004

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 1181

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, TS
SUBJ: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW

REF: STATE 291277 STATE 295613

1. I BELIEVE THAT OUR AGREED-UPON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
STAND UP WELL EVEN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TRAUMATIC
GENERAL STRIKE AND CIVIL DISORDERS OF JANUARY 25/26.
NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT TUNISIA HAS ALREADY
ENTERED A PERIOD WHEN THE OLD ORDER IS UNDER CHALLENGE AS
NEVER BEFORE AND WHEN TUNISIA'S RULERS MUST BEGIN TO
DEMONSTRATE THEIR WISDOM AND FLEXIBILITY IN ADAPTING THEM-
SELVES AND THEIR SYSTEM TO NEW POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL REALITIES. IT WILL BE OUR PRIMARY AIM, UTILIZING
THE VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH THEM
OVER THE YEARS, TO ENCOURAGE AND AID THE GOT'S ADAPTATION
TO THE NEW REALITIES AND, IN SO DOING, TO HELP THE GOT
MAINTAIN ITS STABILITY, ITS PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOALS OF
ITS FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ITS PRO-AMERICAN AND
PRO-WESTERN STANCE AND ITS INCREASED DEMOCRATIZATION.
I ALSO BELIEVE THAT OUR STATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
WILL PROVE SUFFICIENTLY ELASTIC TO SERVE US DURING THE
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CRITICAL PERIOD AHEAD, A PERIOD WHEN OUR TRADITIONAL
CONCERN FOR TUNISIA'S DOMESTIC WELL-BEING AND HER FOREIGN
POLICY ORIENTATION IS LIKELY TO BE PUT TO THE TEST.
I. MAINTENANCE OF A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.
--I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE CONCERTING OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES
AND GOAL WITH OTHER WESTERN POWERS. WE SHALL EMPHASIZE
THROUGH STEPPED-UP CONTACTS PARTICULARLY WITH OUR BRITISH,

CANADIAN, FRENCH, FRG, BELGIAN, DUTCH AND ITALIAN COLLEAGUES
OUR FEELING THAT THE GOT MUST BE ABLE TO RELY UPON WESTERN
UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS POSSIBLY STORMY
PERIOD. I SHALL NOT HESITATE TO CONTINUE PRESSING WASHINGTON
FOR THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATE FOR A WORKING VISIT (ALREADY
EMBARRASSINGLY DELAYED) BY PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND I
SHALL ENCOURAGE VISITS TO TUNIS BY GREATER NUMBERS OF SENIOR
OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

--THE TUNISIAN PENCHANT FOR PRAGMATISM CAN BE EXPECTED TO
GUARANTEE A CONTINUATION OF CONCILIATORY DIPLOMACY TOWARD
ITS NEIGHBORS, LIBYA AND ALGERIA, BOTH OF WHOM, ALAS, MIGHT
WELL DECIDE TO FISH IN TROUBLED TUNISIAN WATERS. A MORE
CREDITABLE DEFENSE POSTURE FOR TUNISIA SHOULD CONTINUE
TO BE A HIGH-PRIORITY GOAL FOR OURSELVES AND OUR ALLIES.

II. INCREASED RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

--BECAUSE OF OUR FEELING THAT THE DESTOURIAN SYSTEM
HAS STAGNATED AND NEEDS TO OPEN ITSELF TO POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL FORCES AND INFLUENCE NOW OUTSIDE IT, WE WILL INCREASE
OUR CONTACTS WITH "OPPOSITION" ELEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IN-
CREASE THEIR RESPECTABILITY AS WELL AS TO BE CONSTANTLY AWARE
OF THEIR OPINIONS AND ORIENTATION. IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN
RIGHTS WE SHALL CONTINUE QUIETLY AT HIGHLEVELS OF INFLUENCE
TO ENCOURAGE THE GOT TO IMPROVE UPON ITS ALREADY GOOD IMAGE
AND ESPECIALLY TO RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TOWARD BACKSLIDING
UNDER THE PRESSURES OF A CHANGING DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT.

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III. MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION OF TUNISIA'S SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

--OUR CHIEF CONTRIBUTION TOWARD STABILIZATION OF A PEACEFUL
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TUNISIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS WILL CONTINUE
TO BE OUR MILITARY AISSTANCE PROGRAM WHICH MUST NOT BE ALLOWED
TO SLIP BELOW \$25 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS ANNUALLY. INDEED,
IF THE GOT ULTIMATELY DECIDES TO ACQUIRE F-5'S WE SHOULD
BE PREPARED TO INCREASE FMS CREDITS BY \$10 MILLION PER YEAR
FOR TWO YEARS.

--WE SHALL WATCH AND, WHERE NECESSARY, NURTURE CLOSE COLLABOR-
ATION BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPEAN AND NATO POWERS AND THE GOT IN
THE SECURITY AND MILITARY MODERNIZATION FIELDS.

--WE WILL PURSUE AND EVENTUALLY INCREASE OUR ALREADY PLANNED
JOINT TRAINING EXERCISES INVOLVING THE SIXTH FLEET AND
EUCOM UNITS.

--WHILE NAVAL VISITS SHOULD CONTINUE AT ABOUT THE PRESENT
LEVEL (16) PER YEAR WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO INCREASE OR
EXPEDITE THEM IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND TO CONTINUE
OCCASIONAL VISITS BY NUCLEAR-POWERED UNITS.

--WITH THE HELP OF ALLIED EMBASSIES AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES
WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESSURE TUNISIA INTO DISCONTINUING
OR AT LEAST DECREASING SOVIET USE OF THE MENZEL BOLSQLTA
DOCKYARD. WE SHOULD PURSUE THIS GOAL IN A HUMANE MANNER
BEARING IN MIND GOT'S NEED FOR A FACE-SAVING AS WELL AS
ECONOMICALLY EQUIVALENT ALTERNATIVE.

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ACTION NEA-10

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SIG-03 MMO-01 PM-05 INR-10 INRE-00 CIAE-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 005

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 1181

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA ROMAN NUMERAL IV)

IV. ACCERLATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

--WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO CONTINUED AID IN TUNISIA'S
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH 1981 (AT THE END OF WHICH TIME THE
COUNTRY HOPES TO BE FREE OF THE NEED FOR CONCESSIONAL
ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES). FOLLOWING INTENSIVE TALKS
WITH THE GOT, WE HAVE AGREED TO FOCUS OUR AID IN THE PERIOD
AHEAD IN A LIMITED NUMBER BUT CLEARLY DEFINED FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR.
WHILE WE ARE UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO MEET
THE GOT'S MAXIMUM HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS, A GROSS
INPUT OF ABOUT \$40 MILLION ANNUALLY (INCLUDING HOUSING
GUARANTEES AND PL-480) FOR THE NEXT THREE FISCAL YEARS
SEEMS TO ME REASONABLE, FEASIBLE AND DESIRABLE.

--WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO EFFECT GREATER PC/AID
INTEGRATION AND BELIEVE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH, RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT AND CENTRAL TUNISIA PROGRAMS OFFER FERTILE POSSIBILI-
TIES IN THIS REGARD. INCREASING REQUESTS FOR PEACE
CORPS INVOLVEMENT IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND IN ECOLOGICAL

AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS, HOWEVER, SHOULD ALSO BE HEEDDED
IF POSSIBLE.

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V. EXPANSION OF U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT

--WE ARE INCREASING OUR USE OF THE SEMINAR TO HELP PROMOTE
U.S. TRADE AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND WORKING WITH TUNISIAN
AGENCIES (API AND BDET) AS WELL AS OPIC AND THE AGRIBUSINESS
COUNCIL TO IDENTIFY PROMISING FIELDS FOR FURTHER U.S.
INVESTMENT AND INCREASED TWO-WAY TRADE. WE INTEND TO USE
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO ADVANCE OUR GOAL
OF PERSUADING THE TUNISIANS TO REFORM TRADITIONAL ATTITUDES
AND PRACTICES WHICH PUT U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND POTENTIAL
INVESTORS AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THIS GROWING MARKET. FOR
EXAMPLE, WE ARE AGAIN EXPLORING A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON A
TAX TREATY.

--EXPORT MARKET ACCESS WILL BE IMPORTANT TO TUNISIA'S
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AS IT MOVES TOWARD "AID GRADUATE"
STATUS. I WILL URGE WASHINGTON TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS
POSSIBLE TO TUNISIAN INITIATIVES TO DIVERSIFY EXPORTS
AND BROADEN MARKETS.

VI. STRENGTHENING OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

--I INTEND TO STRIVE TO MAINTAIN OUR 1975 COMMITMENT
TO THE GOT TO INVITE NOT LESS THAN 16 (SIXTEEN) OUTSTANDING
TUNISIANS YEARLY TO THE U.S. UNDER OUR INTERNATIONAL
VISITOR PROGRAM. WE CONSIDER OUR FY1978 IV LIST OUR BEST
EVER.

--WE HAVE STRENGTHENED GREATLY OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE
GOT'S EFFORTS TO EXPAND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEACHING AND
ARE MAKING PLANS TO AUGMENT OUR INVOLVEMENT.

ANOTHER HIGH PRIORITY THIS YEAR WILL BE OUR EFFORTS TO
PERSUADE THE GOT TO HELP INCREASE THE PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

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OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE READING MATERIAL.
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